

Lafofa languages

Lafofa, also **Tegem–Amira**, is a Niger–Congo dialect cluster spoken in the southern Nuba Mountains in the south of Sudan. Blench (2010) considers the Tegem and Amira varieties to be distinct languages; as Lafofa is poorly attested, there may be others.

Greenberg (1950) classified Lafofa as one of the Talodi languages, albeit a divergent one, but without much evidence. More recently this position has been abandoned, and Lafofa is left unclassified within Niger–Congo. Norton (2016) tentatively finds Lafofa to be closest to the Ijoid languages.^[3]

Unlike the neighbouring Talodi-Heiban languages which have SVO word order, the Lafofa languages have SOV word order.^[4]

See also

- Lafofa word lists (Wiktionary)

References

1. Lafofa (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/laf/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)

2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Lafofa" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/anguoid/id/lafo1243>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.

3. Russell Norton, 'Lafofa: a distant Ijoid-related language'. CLAN 2016

4. Güldemann, Tom (2018). "Historical linguistics and genealogical language classification in Africa". In Güldemann, Tom (ed.). *The Languages and Linguistics of Africa*. The World of Linguistics series. **11**. Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton. pp. 58–444. doi:10.1515/9783110421668-002 (<https://doi.org/10.1515%2F9783110421668-002>). ISBN 978-3-11-042606-9.

▪ Roger Blench, 2011 (ms), "Does Kordofanian constitute a group and if not, where does its languages fit into Niger-Congo?"^[1] (<https://web.archive.org/web/20120319222916/http://media.leidenuniv.nl/legacy/nuba-hills-conference-paper-2011.pdf>)

▪ Roger Blench, 2011 (ms), "Tegem–Amira: a previously unrecognised subgroup of Niger–Congo"^[2] (<https://web.archive.org/web/20150421033631/http://www.rogerblench.info/Language/Niger-Congo/Kordofanian/Tegem/Tegem%20Amira.pdf>)

Lafofa	
Tegem–Amira	
Region	Nuba Hills, Sudan
Ethnicity	Lafofa
Native speakers	(5,100 cited 1984) ^[1]
Language family	Niger–Congo <ul style="list-style-type: none">(?)<ul style="list-style-type: none">Lafofa
Dialects	Tegem Amira
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	laf
Glottolog	lafo1243 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/lafo1243) ^[2]

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